

LIBRARY

6674(3) BEACONSFIELD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BEACONSFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BEACONSFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Public Health Department,

Council Hall,

Beaconsfield, Bucks.

July, 1953.

To The Chairman and Members of the Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

MADAM CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit my twelfth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1952.

Judged by the low incidence of infectious communicable diseases throughout the year—there were only fifty-five cases of acute notifiable disease and fifteen cases of tuberculosis entered on the register, most of which were transferred cases—the general health of the community was good. This is the sixth year in succession during which there was no case of diphtheria notified to me: since 1941 there has been a total of 15 cases; in 1941, 3; 1942, 2; 1943, 3; 1944-5, 0; 1946, 7; 1947-51, 0. During 1952 there was no case of poliomyelitis notified from within the Council's area. As diphtheria "still kills", and the outcome in cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) is not so well and generally understood as it should be, I have taken this opportunity of reviewing the present position concerning these two diseases.

The provision of housing accommodation by the building of new houses has in the past six years made commendable progress. Up to the 31st March, 1953, the Council had built 269 units of accommodation in an attempt to cope with the post-war housing shortage. Based on an average per household of between three and four persons each, it is estimated that re-housing has been accomplished for about 941 of its inhabitants, which is about one-eighth of the total population of the Council's district. Nor must it be overlooked that a very considerable number of houses has been constructed under licence during the same period.

Such communal services as water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, food hygiene, housing and pest control indicate the nature and degree of control imposed upon the physical environment of modern man. These services are sometimes referred to collectively as environmental hygiene. As will be seen from the pages of this Report, the services mediating this control have worked adequately and safely during the past year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the willing co-operation of the other Chief Officers of the Council and particularly Mr. Crosby, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer, during the past year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

Section I. General and Vital Statistics

Statistics and Vital Statistics.
Social Conditions; Area; Population; Rateable Value.
Births and Deaths; Mortality Rates, 1952.

Section II. Infectious Diseases

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.
Incidence of Notifiable Diseases.
Diphtheria; Immunization; Poliomyelitis.

Section III. Health Services

Hospital Services; Laboratory Services.
Nursing in the Home.

Section IV. Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality Rates, 1952; Mass Radiography.
Public Health Regulations 1925.
Notifications, 1952.

Section V. Milk

Article 20; Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
Tuberculosis Order, 1938.
Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Section VI. National Assistance Acts, 1948 - 1951

Section 47: "Care of Aged Persons," etc.
Section 50: Burials.

Section VII. Housing

New Houses constructed post-war period.

Section VIII. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Sewerage; Sewage Disposal; Drainage.
Cesspool Emptying.

Section IX. Sanitary Services

Water Supplies; General Sanitation; Inspections.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Section X. Factories Act

Section XI. Miscellaneous

Appendices; Water Samples, etc.

STAFF

T. P. Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
John H. Crosby, F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres) of District	..	..	..	..	..	5,314
Number of inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)	..					2,239
Rateable Value of Area	..	..	..	..	..	£90,705
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£360

Population

The Registrar General's population figure is 7,984

Beaconsfield is situated about 25 miles west of London. It has its " old-town " whose red brick houses flank its broad High Street, and about three-quarters of a mile to the North East, is the " new-town," built around the more recent Railway Station.

Beaconsfield stands at the foot of one of the South-easterly spurs of the Chiltern Hills: its subsoil is mainly gravel.

Its proximity to London brings Beaconsfield increasingly within the influence of the metropolis. Both " the old " and " the new " towns are increasingly becoming London dormitory areas, and there is little reason to believe that this tendency will halt within the foreseeable future.

The " new town " has been very fortunate in its early planning in that its density of population is low, and it has attracted a large high-class population. Light industries have, however, infiltrated here and there, but they have been gentle in their intrusion.

BIRTHS, INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

Births

Birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	15.3
Birth rate—England and Wales	..	..	..	15.3
(a) <i>Live Births</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	117
Illegitimate	..	..	..	5
(b) <i>Still Births</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—
Still Birth rate per 1,000 births	..	—	—	24.0
(c) <i>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</i>	..	..	..	Nil
(d) <i>Deaths of Infants under one year of age</i>	..	..	..	10
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—
(e) <i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</i>	..	..	..	6
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—
Infant Mortality: All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	81.9
England and Wales, per 1,000 related births	..	..	..	27.6

Deaths

Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	..	..	11.3

DEATHS

Disease		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis	..	2	—	2
2. Cancer				
(a) Breast (1 f.)	..	3	9	12
(b) Uterus (2 f.)	..			
(c) Other (3 m. 6 f.)	..			
3. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	..	4	12	16
4. Heart disease:				
(a) Coronary disease: angina (7 m. 6 f.)	..	15	13	28
(b) Hypertension (1 m. 2 f.)	..			
(c) Other (7 m. 5 f.)	..			
5. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	1	1	2
6. Pneumonia	..	3	2	5
7. Bronchitis	..	3	—	3
8. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	1	—	1
9. Congenital malformation	..	—	1	1
10. Other ill-defined diseases	..	6	6	12
11. Motor vehicle accidents	..	1	—	1
12. Suicide	..	1	—	1
13. All other accidents	..	2	—	2
		—	—	—
		42	44	86
		—	—	—

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM (Urban Districts only)
Populations, Birth and Mortality Rates for the Year 1952.

District	Population Census, 1951	Registrar- General estimated Population Mid-1952	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still-births
Aylesbury ..	21,054	20,860	16.9	9.3	0.10	28.4	22.7	—
Beaconsfield ..	7,909	7,984	15.3	10.8	0.25	82.0	49.2	—
Bletchley ..	10,916	11,130	17.8	7.9	—	40.4	30.3	4.93
Buckingham ..	3,944	3,991	13.8	14.0	0.25	18.2	—	—
Chesham ..	11,428	11,470	15.3	12.3	—	17.1	11.4	—
Eton ..	3,250	4,664	10.1	6.9	0.21	42.6	21.3	—
High Wycombe ..	40,692	41,590	15.9	9.7	0.14	15.1	7.6	—
Linslade ..	3,269	3,365	16.9	12.2	—	35.1	35.1	—
Marlow ..	6,480	6,524	16.7	10.1	—	45.9	36.7	—
Newport Pagnell ..	4,366	4,232	13.5	14.7	—	35.1	35.1	—
Slough ..	66,439	66,730	15.0	8.6	0.24	24.9	17.9	—
Wolverton ..	13,421	13,460	11.9	14.5	0.15	12.5	6.2	—
TOTAL	193,168	196,000	15.3	9.9	0.15	26.7	18.4	0.33
ENGLAND & WALES	—	—	15.3	11.3	0.24	27.6	—	0.72

SECTION II

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As will be seen from the accompanying table the incidence of infectious, communicable diseases, was low: the total of these was 55 cases only. Nevertheless, the low numbers of measles (28) as compared with the previous year (185) and the accompanying graph serve to illustrate the biennial epidemic feature which is characteristic of measles. Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas, which are diseases due to streptococcus, seem to be disappearing, whereas the number of whooping cough cases exceeds both.

There was only one case of erysipelas ; one of cerebrospinal fever ; 10 of scarlet fever (4 m., 6 f.); 15 of whooping cough (9 m., 6 f.). There was no case of diphtheria or of poliomyelitis.

Incidents of Notifiable Infectious Diseases including Tuberculosis

The following were notified during the year:

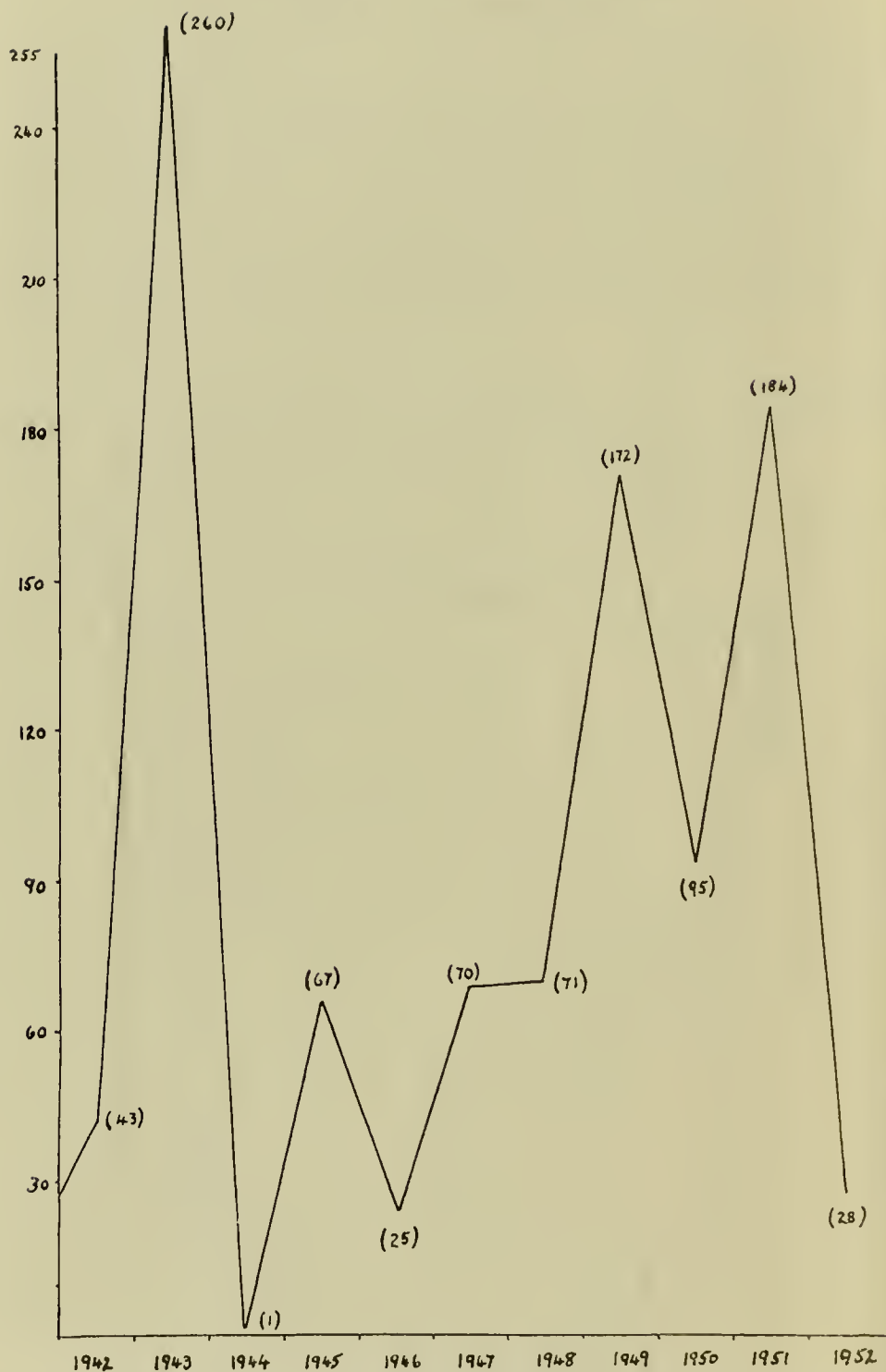
Measles	..	..	..	..	28 Cases
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	15 „
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	10 „
Cerebral Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	1 „
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1 „
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	15 „

MEASLES.

		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers notified	..	..	..	13	12	40	30	32	39	96	76	52	43	87	97	14	14
Under 1 year	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	3	—	1	3	4	—	—
1-2 years	..	..	..	2	1	11	9	4	7	18	10	10	5	9	10	8	6
3-5 years	..	..	..	6	3	15	9	17	22	37	31	27	19	48	40	2	6
6-9 years	..	..	..	5	8	10	7	11	7	27	16	15	12	22	24	4	1
10-14 years	..	..	..	—	—	3	3	—	2	6	6	—	1	2	7	—	—
15-24 years	..	..	..	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	6	—	3	2	4	—	—
25 years and over	..	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	—	2	1	8	—	1
TOTAL (All ages)	..	..	..	13	12	40	30	32	39	96	76	52	43	87	97	14	14
TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS	..			25		70		71		172		95		184		28	
YEAR	..	..	..	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	

MEASLES

Alternate Year Epidemic Nature



Preventive Immunization against Diphtheria

During the past twelve years, the numbers of cases of diphtheria within the Council's area notified in the respective years since 1940 are as follows: 1940, 21; 1941, 3; 1942, 2; 1943, 3; 1944-5, 0; 1946, 7; 1947-52, 0.

Immunity from diphtheria in any community usually depends upon the proportion of immunized children to the total child population, and it is stated that it requires three out of four children to be immunized to secure against the risk of the disease. Where the proportion of immunized falls below this proportion the danger of diphtheria rises. During the past year the numbers immunized in Beaconsfield are as follows:

Age Group,	..	<i>Under</i>							<i>Total</i>
		1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Primary Immunization	..	40	38	2	1	—	5	1	87
Re-immunization		—	—	—	—	8	68	2	78
									165

Immunization against diphtheria has become "at least for the moment something like a national habit". The fear of diphtheria has declined amongst parents in a direct relation to the decline of the disease itself: the majority of parents of young children nowadays have never seen or heard of a case of diphtheria among their neighbours' children and are more afraid of illnesses they know than of the dangers of diphtheria. But diphtheria still kills, as was shown recently in a northern city, where acceptances for immunization were beginning to decline in 1950 and 1951. From outside the city diphtheria was introduced, and there was a sharp outbreak of the disease within the city which caused two deaths and left a trail of complications. There were two points of general interest in connection with this outbreak: one was that neither of the children that died from diphtheria was immunized, and the other was that there was an overwhelming response and numerous offers of immunization after the outbreak had begun. It seems that immunization is the price of freedom against diphtheria.

It is interesting to note that in a recent report published by the World Health Organisation, covering about 100 different countries for the year 1951, there is evidence that diphtheria, a very prevalent disease at the beginning of the twentieth century, appears to-day to be in full retreat throughout the world, particularly in Europe, the continent which was formerly the most seriously affected. The United Kingdom provides the most striking illustration of the trend of the disease during the last fifty years with the following deaths:

1901 (9,761); 1940 (2,466); 1952 (52).

POLIOMYELITIS

There were no cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year within the Council's area. This gives an opportunity to review the present position concerning this disease.

Of all the communicable diseases, cases of poliomyelitis are usually characterized by the public anxiety and even public alarm to which they sometimes give rise. Public anxiety tends to be exaggerated because the outcome of the disease is not so well and generally understood as it might be. The results of an investigation to ascertain the outcome of 7,832 cases of the disease admitted to hospital in 1949, were published some time ago. I think it is worth while publishing the results because of their reassuring nature. It was found that out of every 100 patients admitted to hospitals throughout the country in that year, 5 died; 10 were severely paralysed; 18 had a degree of paralysis which, properly treated would not stop them from working, and the remaining 67 were left with a trivial paralysis which would pass almost unnoticed or would cause no ill effect whatever. Included in this last group of 67 were about 30 in whom the diagnosis of poliomyelitis was never confirmed. Further, it is estimated that two out of every three patients notified in the country as a whole, in 1950, recovered unscathed.

Poliomyelitis is a disease caused by a virus like smallpox and yellow-fever. Unlike these two, however, against which the principle and practice of immunization (vaccination) has found its greatest success in the field of the virus diseases, there has not yet been found any successful method of immunization against poliomyelitis. This failure has been due to various causes, but there is, at present, a secure basis for renewed hope of discovering an effective and safe protective vaccine against the disease.

SECTION III

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Hospital Services

There is no general hospital in Beaconsfield, but it has three Nursing Homes registered by the Bucks County Council. St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Candemas Lane was excluded from the operation of the National Health Services Act, 1946, by the direction of the Minister of Health.

Beaconsfield is just within the area of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. It might almost be described as a fringe area—it is the most northerly of the four Bucks Local Authority areas, namely Eton Urban, Eton Rural and Slough Borough—to be included in this Region. Its boundaries flank those of the adjoining Oxford Regional Hospital Board, and Beaconsfield, in the matter of Hospital services, looks toward High Wycombe in the Oxford Regional Hospital Area and not to Slough or Windsor situated in the North West Metropolitan Hospital Region.

2. Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service is concerned with Bacteriology and Epidemiology in relation to the diagnosis, prevention and control of Infectious Disease.

The Regional Public Health Laboratory is situate at Walton Street, Oxford, and, in general, undertakes, free of charge, the bacteriological examination of such specimens as sputum, nose and throat swabs, faeces, urine, blood, etc.

The chemical examination of water and sewage effluent is undertaken by the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

Because it is more readily accessible, a good deal of use is also made of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton, under Colonel Walker. The Bacteriological examination of water and ice-cream samples is usually carried out at this laboratory.

3. Nursing in the Home

The following Nurse Midwives practised in the town during the year 1952:

Miss G. Urquhart, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Miss O. Rayner, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Their address is: Nurses Homes, Candlemas Mead, Beaconsfield.
Tel.: Beaconsfield 954.

These Nurses hold the Health Visitors Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

In addition to attending cases in their homes, the nurses gave their services to the monthly Welfare Clinics held at the Old Rectory.

WELFARE CLINICS

There is a County Council Welfare Clinic held at the Old Rectory, Beaconsfield. There are two sessions, viz: on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month; on the former of these the Medical Officer is in attendance.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) Infectious Disease Ambulance

Aylesbury Infectious Disease Hospital—One Ambulance.

(b) Ambulance Services

The Bucks County Council has provided an ambulance service for the whole of the County through the agency of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. One ambulance is stationed at Beaconsfield.

(c) Hospital Car Cases

The Bucks County Council, as the Authority responsible for this service, has made arrangements with the Women's Voluntary Services and the British Red Cross Society for these bodies to act as the Council's agents and to operate the service by the employment of volunteer drivers with private cars, known as the Hospital Car Service. In the Beaconsfield area this service is operated through Mrs. Diamond, Alderley Cottage, Wilton Road, Beaconsfield. Telephone No.: Beaconsfield 483.

SECTION IV

TUBERCULOSIS

Mass Radiography

Mobile Mass Radiography Units are attached to Regional Hospital Boards and work within the area of the particular Board. Beaconsfield Urban District Council lies within the area of the North-West London Regional Hospital Board and when the Mass Radiography Unit of that Region is next within reasonable travelling distance of Beaconsfield, transport arrangements will be made for such organized industrial groups as volunteer to be transported to the Unit. In the meantime, the other two authorities, namely Amersham and Chesham which together with Beaconsfield form a single formulated area, lie within the Oxford Regional Hospital Board area, and during the past year a Mass Radiography Survey of those areas has taken place. Inquiries of individual industrial groups in Beaconsfield showed that some of their employees had already attended the Mass Radiography Unit when a survey was taken at High Wycombe; some had been X-rayed when the Unit was stationed at Slough and many had already been X-rayed in London. Such volunteers as wished to avail themselves of the presence of the Unit in the adjoining area were transported thence from Beaconsfield.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1952

There were in all 15 cases entered in the Register of Tuberculosis for the year 1952, of which, however, 5 were cases transferred into the Urban district: details of all cases were as follows:

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. <i>New Cases (Pulmonary)</i>						
3 Males (ages 53, 58 and 73)					3	
4 Females (ages 20, 26, 29 and 40)						4
2. <i>New Cases (Non-pulmonary):</i>						
1 Male (age 62)					1	
3. <i>Re-notification:</i>						
1 Male (age 32)					1	
1 Female (age 32)						1
4. <i>Transfers (into area):</i>						
2 Males (ages 25 and 42)					2	
3 Females (ages 20, 25 and 40)						3
					7	8

From these entries it will be seen that a high proportion of cases were transfers from other districts into the area of this Council. The information concerning these transferred cases was transmitted by the Medical Officer of the outgoing area to myself as the Medical Officer of Health of the incoming area. This was done under the authority of the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930, but these regulations have been rescinded. Under the Regulations it was the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to keep a register of persons notified as suffering from tuberculosis and he and his council were charged with the duty of investigating the source of infection, preventing the spread of infection and remedying conditions favourable to infection. By rescinding these Regulations, the Medical Officer is no longer required to keep a register of notifications though he is urged to do so. It may well be that over a period of time the replacement of statutory duty by a general wish will not help as much as expected in the prevention of tuberculosis.

P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

SECTION V

MILK

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Article 20

Article 20 empowers a Medical Officer of Health by notice in writing, to stop the supply of milk known or believed to be infected, or to insist upon its being heat-treated to render it safe and so prevent the spread of infection. The usual sources of infection are the organisms of brucella and of tuberculosis: the former gives rise to contagious abortion in cattle and to undulant fever in human beings: the latter to tuberculosis of bones and glands in human beings, usually children.

The Staff of the Chief Inspector of Bucks, which is the responsible authority in this respect, is assiduous in the performance of its duty of taking samples of milk, within this Council's area. During the year one sample was found, on bacteriological examination, to contain organisms of tuberculosis. The milk was not sold in its raw state for human consumption, but was heat-treated and so rendered safe.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

A report on the investigation by the Divisional Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the case referred to them as a result of milk sampling show that a cow was slaughtered under the authority of the above Order.

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 “Specification of Areas”

No raw milk can be regarded as absolutely safe ; not even that from cattle which are attested free from tuberculosis under the Tuberculin-Tested Scheme, because even such designated milk as Tuberculin Tested milk may contain organisms of disease other than tuberculosis. Nevertheless the power given to the Ministry of Food to specify areas within which non-designated, that is “raw”, milk may not be sold by retail, is a step in the right direction to ensure that *all* milk sold by retail is safe for human consumption.

It might be expected from the efforts of “Tuberculin Tested” milk producers and the speeding up of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Attestation Scheme that the number of the tuberculous samples found by the Chief Inspector's Department of the County Council would be less each year. But this is not so, for the number in the County of Bucks has remained the same (35) during each of the past three years. No doubt the reason is that re-actors rejected from “Tuberculin Tested” and “Attested” herds find their way into non-designated and non-attested herds and it is from these

herds the bulk of the samples are procured. There is a high rate of tuberculosis in a few herds in the County and these are sampled more frequently than others. (A re-actor is an animal which re-acts to a tuberculin test and while tuberculous does not necessarily give tuberculous milk).

It is unfortunate that there is no scheme to prevent re-actors being sold into other herds.

Section 23

Under Section 23 of the 1950 Act, when the Minister has by Order "specified an area", it means that the use of special designated milk within that area becomes obligatory. In such an area all milk sold by retail must be Pasteurized, Sterilized or Tuberculin-Tested or Accredited milk from one herd. It becomes an offence to sell raw undesignated milk by retail in such an area for human consumption.

The areas hitherto specified under this Section of the Act are densely populated areas, and at the present time there are two Orders specifying areas in force in England and Wales. One, the London and Portsmouth Order, includes the whole of Middlesex and part of Hertfordshire; the other is the Brighton, Sheffield, Southampton and Stoke-on-Trent Order.

A further step has now been taken towards the specification of four more areas in England and Wales in which milk of special designation only may be sold. It is proposed that the new Order shall come into force as soon as possible after 30th November, 1953.

The areas concerned are: (1) Newcastle-on-Tyne and District; (2) South Essex; (3) Reading and District and (4) Plymouth and South Devon. It is observed that within (3) i.e. Reading and District Section of the Order are included areas in South Bucks, such as the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield, Eton and Marlow and the Rural District of Eton and the Borough of Slough.

Taking into account the areas that have already been specified, the milk supplies of 48 per cent of the population of England and Wales will, when the specifications of the four new areas are completed, consist wholly of specially designated milk.

As the responsibility for designated milk in this urban district rests with the County Council, that Council will also be the authority for the enforcement of the conditions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1953.

The following licences were issued:

Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	..	..	2
Supplementary licence authorising use of special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	..	..	1
Special Designation "Pasteurised"	..	..	1
Special Designation "T.T. Pasteurised"	..	..	2

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 to 1951

This act has been described as the final step in the break-up of the old Poor Law, the repeal of which was widely welcomed as it had, in the main, outlived its usefulness. The duties imposed by the Poor Law were transferred in many instances to Local Authorities, and certain duties, namely those under Sections 47 and 50 of the above Acts became the responsibilities of District Councils.

Section 47

The provisions of this Section have for their purpose the securing of the necessary care and attention for persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During 1952 one such case has been dealt with in this manner, but the full procedure of taking the extreme steps of applying to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction or to a single justice having jurisdiction in the place where the premises are situated in which the person in respect of whom the application is made resides have not been used.

Section 50

Under this Section of the above Acts, the duty is placed upon the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts to arrange for the burial or cremation of any person who has died or been found dead in their area. This duty is exercisable only when it appears to the Council that no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.

During the past year, the Council has not been called upon to fulfil its responsibilities under this Section.

SECTION VII

HOUSING

The Council, on the 31st March, 1953, owned a total of 533 units of accommodation, all of which are of a permanent nature except 40 temporary bungalows erected in Holtspur Way as an emergency measure during the War. Of the 493 permanent units, 224 were constructed during the 1939-45 War and 269 have been erected since.

The maximum number of applicants for housing accommodation was 426 in 1947: to-day the number is 202. In other words the need for the provision of housing accommodation during the past five years has been satisfied to an extent of 48 per cent of applicants. Further, in doing this assuming that the estimated population is 8,000, based upon the average figure of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per family, the Council has re-housed an estimated number of 941 persons which is nearly 12 per cent of its own population.

The type of housing accommodation provided by the Council is varied, and the following numbers of the various types show that an attempt has been made to meet the wide range of housing need.

At 31st March, 1953 the position was as follows :

3 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses:						
Candlemas Mead	..	..	..	..	..	20
3-Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses:						
Candlemas Mead	..	..	..	..	..	60
Garvin Avenue	..	..	..	..	..	28
Chesterton Green	..	..	..	..	..	20
Maxwell Road		..	..	..	..	26
Ronald Road ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cherry Tree Road	..	..	..	..	..	10
Shepherd's Lane	..	..	..	..	..	2
						150
4-Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses:						
Garvin Avenue	..	..	..	..	..	4
Bungalows:						
Malthouse Square	..	..	..	..	..	6
Garvin Avenue	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cherry Tree Road	..	..	..	..	..	4
Orchard Road ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
						15
Flats:						
Stile Meadow ..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Garvin Avenue	..	..	..	..	..	2
						26
2-Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses:						
Orchard Road ..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Garvin Avenue	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cherry Tree Road	..	..	..	..	..	16
Shepherd's Lane	..	..	..	..	..	10
						54
						269

SECTION VIII

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Two Sewage Disposal Works serve the district, the Holtspur Bottom Works, which is nearly 34 acres in extent, and the Hedgerley Lane Works of about 26 acres.

During the year the new soakaway at the former of these has dealt adequately with the effluent during the heavy rain, and at the latter work of a routine maintenance nature has been carried out.

As will be seen from the adjoining table, there are a considerable number of cesspools that require to be emptied in the area.

CESSPOOLS

Number of Cesspool emptyings in district	600
Number of Cesspools emptied out of district ..	2
Loads Disposed of in district	1,502

SECTION IX

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year was of a general and routine nature. The co-operation received from the trades affected by the new bye-laws relating to Food Premises was, on the whole, good. As usual, prominent in the routine work of the Department was the inspection of houses under the Public Health and the Housing Acts.

Water Supply

The Council is not a Statutory Water Undertaking, but two such Undertakings serve the district, viz: The Amersham and Beaconsfield Water Company which was recently taken over by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, and the Marlow Water Company: the former serves the main body of the town and the latter Holtspur and District.

There is a piped water supply serving the whole of the district: there are no drinking water wells in use. Several samples have been taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analysis. Throughout the whole of the area the supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity; it is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Water taken from :	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	Result
London End	Nil	Highly satisfactory
Holtspur	Nil	” ”
Bell House (Road House) ..	Nil	” ”
Bell House Open-Air Swimming Pool	Nil	” ”

Specimen copies of the Analyses are to be found in Appendices.

Swimming Bath Water

One sample of water was taken from the Swimming Bath at Bell House, Beaconsfield, and submitted for chemical analysis. The analyst reported that the water was in a satisfactory chemical condition.

Refuse Disposal and Salvage

The use of the Hedgerley Lane site as a refuse tip has now been discontinued and the new tip at Hare Hatch Lane is now in operation.

Refuse Bins emptied in district	..	..	..	128,926
Loads to shoot	..	..	..	1,160

The Salvage returns for the year 1952 are as follows:—

				<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
1. Waste Paper	..	..	..	135	7	2	0	1,391	13	3
2. Lead	..	..	..	0	1	0	0	6	5	0
3. Brass	..	..	..	0	0	1	4	1	15	0
				135	8	3	4	£1,399	13	3

1. Sanitary Inspector's Visits

1. Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	31
2. Number of Houses re-visited under Public Health Acts	64
3. Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts ..	5
4. Number of Houses re-visited under Housing Acts ..	5
5. Number of Houses inspected for Vermin	6
(Rooms disinfected)	2
6. Visits where infectious disease had occurred	3
7. Smoke observations	2
8. Visits in connection with Drainage	5
9. Visits in connection with Water Supply	2
10. Visits to Shops	36
11. Miscellaneous Visits	70

2. Abatement of Nuisances

Informal Notices outstanding 31/12/51	4
Informal Notices served during 1952	16
Works completed in 1952 (as result of Informal Notices) ..	15
Informal Notices outstanding 31/12/52	5
Statutory Notices outstanding 31/12/51	1
Statutory Notices served during 1952	4
Statutory Notices complied with in 1952	3
Statutory Notices outstanding 31/12/52	2

During the year the following nuisances were reported: Dampness (7); Defective Roof Surface (3); Chimney Stacks (5); Defective guttering (7); Kitchen ranges and Fireplaces (3); Defective plaster-work (5); Defective W.C. Pans (3); Defective Drains (5); Dustbins (3); Miscellaneous (7).

3. Housing

i. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	62
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose	90
ii. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
iii. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6
iv. Remedy of defects during the year without service of a Statutory Notice	46

Number of Defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	15
---	----

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
--	---

Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding:

(a) Number of dwellings for overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(b) Number of families living therein	7
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	20

All cases of overcrowding on the Housing Officer's list of applications for Council Houses.

4. Rodent Control

At present there is one part-time Rodent Operative working under the supervision of the Rodent Officer.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act came into force on the 31st March, 1950, and requires the Council to submit an annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The following figures are an abstract from Form PDR/2:

(a) *Type and Estimated Total Number of Premises:*

Local Authority	8
Dwelling-houses	2,311
Agricultural Property	17
Business and Industrial Premises	165
	2,501

(b) *Classification of Infestations:*

Major	3
Minor	77
Mice only	3

(c) *Notices Served:*

Under Section 4	4
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ..	2
Proceedings under Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 22 ..	Nil

Meat

There is no authorised slaughterhouse operating in Beaconsfield and, apart from certain emergency slaughtering at farms or smallholdings, home killed meat for human consumption is delivered from authorised slaughterhouses in adjoining districts in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Condemned Foodstuffs:

Meat: Beef	..	..	..	..	3 qrs. 26 lbs.
Fish: Smoked Haddock	..	..	..	..	14 lbs.
Dog Fish	..	..	..	..	2 qrs. 14 lbs.
Picked Shrimps	..	..	..	..	2 quarts
Tinned Goods:					
Pork and Beef	..	..	..	..	3 lbs. 5 ozs.
Brisket of Beef	..	..	..	..	4 lbs.
Shoulder of Ham	..	..	..	..	1 lb. 2 ozs.
Stewed Steak	..	..	..	..	6 lbs.
Salmon	..	..	..	..	1 lb. 8 ozs.
Tomato Soup	..	..	..	..	3 lbs. 2 ozs.
Pineapple	..	..	..	..	2 lbs.

Perishable Food:

National Margarine	..	1 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lbs.
New Zealand Butter	..	2 qrs. 23 lbs.
Fish Cakes	..	4 dozen

The owner of the premises on which the perishable food was discovered was charged and found guilty of negligence; most of the food was, however, returned to the suppliers for re-processing.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been in operation since 1950. They require the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air. During visits to food premises attention is given to the observance of these Byelaws.

Ice Cream

In connection with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, frequent visits have been made to premises where ice-cream is sold.

There are no premises registered where ice-cream is manufactured, but there are 12 registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream. Eleven samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination ; of these 1 was in Grade IV; 3 in Grade III; 6 in Grade II and 1 in Grade I of the Provisional Grading Scheme.

Food Poisoning Notifications

There were no cases of food-poisoning notified during the year.

G. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	16	Nil	Nil

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding (S.2)	..	..	..	..	..
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	..	..	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	..	..	..	..	..
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Unsuitable or defective	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Not separate for sexes	..	..	..	..	..
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. *Outwork.*

We have two notified outworkers in the district.

APPENDIX I

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D. F. H. Button, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Report on the Analysis of a sample of water received from the Beaconsfield Urban District Council, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

Sample of water supplied by the Rickmansworth and
Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.1
	Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	0.01
Total Solids	368
Chlorine in Chlorides	15.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. at 98° F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary	230
Permanent	42
Total	272
Mteals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is chemically of high purity and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. F. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.

APPENDIX II.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK.

Public Analyst's Department,
Health Services Department,
Walworth Road, S.E.17.

D. F. H. Button, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

Report on the Analysis of a sample of water received from the Beaconsfield
Urban District Council, Beaconsfield, Bucks:

Sample of water supplied by the Rickmansworth &
Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Reaction (pH)	7.2
	Parts per Million
Free Chlorine	nil
Total Solids	340
Chlorine in Chlorides	17.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. at 98° F.)	nil
Hardness, Temporary	236
Permanent	40
Total	276
Metals—Lead, Copper, Zinc	Not found

From these results I am of opinion that this water is chemically of high purity
and suitable for drinking and domestic use.

(Signed) D. F. H. BUTTON,
Public Analyst.